

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that talked about it time after time, when we had real price gouging legislation on this floor, not because our bills were able to make it to the floor but in the forms of amendment, the Republicans shot it down on partisan votes time after time. I am talking about criminal penalties for oil companies when they gouge Americans, fines up to \$3 million when they are caught gouging Americans. But the Republican majority shot it down on a partisan vote.

But before I yield to Mr. DELAHUNT, I just want to say once again I would like to thank our Democratic leadership for allowing us to have this hour once again on the floor like we do almost every night or every night, sometimes twice a night, when we have the opportunity to come to the floor, Mr. Speaker: our democratic leader, Ms. NANCY PELOSI; also our whip, Mr. STENY HOYER; Mr. JIM CLYBURN, who is our chairman; and Mr. LARSON, who is our vice chairman; and all the Democratic ranking members and other folks that work every day, Mr. DELAHUNT, and you know, offering amendments in committees. Like Mr. RYAN and I just left our Armed Services Committee, offering amendments that would not only help our men and women in uniform but the American people in general.

I will be happy to yield to Mr. DELAHUNT at this time.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, towards the end of the hour this past hour, my good friend from Iowa spoke about a variety of different subjects; and he made mention of what we ought to have done in terms of immigration and other issues. In part I agree, and in part I disagree.

But I think what is important and it cannot be stated often enough, whatever the problem is, whether it be the mismanagement of the reconstruction phase in Iraq, whether it be the price of gas at the pump, whether it be illegal immigration into this country, it comes back to one basic fact: that over the course of the past 6 years, 6 years now, this country has been presided over by a Republican administration. President George W. Bush was elected in the year 2000. It is now 2006.

Back in 1994, Mr. MEEK and Mr. RYAN, this House saw for the first time in 40 years a Republican majority. Across this Capitol building, the Senate has been controlled for most of the past 10 years and is currently controlled by the Republican Party.

So what I really cannot understand is why have all these things not been addressed? What has happened to our borders? There are laws on the books now. We have had waves of illegal immigration coming across our borders for the past 6 years.

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My friend from Iowa was talking about how many come across daily. Where has this administration been? Where has this Congress been? Are

they just waking up? This is not a recent problem. Because the truth is, they can talk about Democrats. They can talk about problems that are out there that are real and that are serious. But they are Washington. They own this town. They run this institution. They run this government. If there is a problem with the price of oil, or if there is a problem with immigration, or if there is a problem with health care or the environment, they had the power to address it.

What I would suggest is that they have failed. They have failed. They have been unable to get their act together. They could build fences. They could have kept the price of gas down. They didn't have to get us into this mess in Iraq.

But that is what they have done. That is the legacy of this White House, confirmed with the stamp of approval by this Congress.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I think the overall point, as you stated, is exactly correct. But when the time came, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MEEK, when the time came for the Republican Party to muster up enough votes to make sure a person making \$10 million—

Mr. DELAHUNT. But, Mr. RYAN, they are in charge here. They have to muster up the votes. Where were they? With all due respect to my friend from Ohio, they are in charge of the border. They are in charge of immigration. They are in charge, period. And what have they done? They have failed.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. DELAHUNT, you know what they have done? Anything the President said he wanted, they rubber-stamped it. Anything that the oil industry said that they wanted, they rubber-stamped it. Any problem where the American people says, why is the card stacked against me policy-wise, whether it be health care, whether it be prescriptions, what have you, they have rubber-stamped it.

If you watched The Today Show just this morning, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. RYAN, Matt Lauer had the CEO of ExxonMobil on. Let me give credit to the CEO of ExxonMobil, because the other oil companies would not comment.

One of the questions was, do you feel that the Republican majority in the Congress have turn-coated on you now? Have they switched on you now? Now they are running politically scared. Now they are willing to take windfall profits away from you. Now they are willing to go forth on price gouging legislation. Do you think they turned on you?

The ExxonMobil CEO never answered the question. But it is very obvious, like you said, they are in charge. It is almost like the old saying, "the buck stops here." The Republican majority doesn't want to admit to that now.

Now they are writing letters saying, maybe we need to do this and maybe we need to do that. But these are the same individuals, our colleagues on the majority side of the aisle, that put all

of this in motion. Now they are trying to act like they had nothing to do with it. "Oh, my God, the oil prices are horrendous. We need to do something about it."

They were a part of making it happen.

Mr. RYAN, since we are talking about The Today Show, we don't want to even get into what happened with Tim Russert effort this past weekend about the oil prices and individuals admitting the reasons why they are where they are.

I would say this: If we were in charge, if we were in charge, Mr. Speaker, there would be a line outside of this door of Republican Members of Congress coming to the floor saying what the Democrats are not doing.

Now, on oil and gas, we tried to correct this situation long ago. The question of price gouging, or can we investigate oil companies or not, would not even be on the table, because we would have price gouging legislation on the books that are criminal, that are criminal, and have \$3 million fines.

Right now, individuals investing in oil companies, they are getting paid. They are getting their money. Meanwhile, the headlines in the Today, this was actually Wednesday, today, May 3, here is this lady thinking about how much she can pump in. I guarantee you she cannot even fill her tank up, because the gas prices are so high.

So I am going to go through what I said last week. If you are a Republican and you are the head of the Republican club, or whatever it may be in your local community, you have to have a problem with this. If you are a Republican, you have to have a problem with the record-breaking borrowing we are taking out from foreign countries. You have to have a problem with the hand-in-hand relationship this administration and Republican Congress has had with big oil. You have to have a major problem with it. Independents, I know that you are just done with this Republican majority.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If the gentleman would allow me, the energy bill that passed this Congress just about a year ago, in June 2005, Mr. MEEK, Mr. RYAN, Mr. Speaker, that was a bill that was passed by the Republican majority. It was passed with only minimal support from Democrats.

Do you know what the cost of a gallon of gas was when you pulled up at that gas station back in June of 2005 when this House passed and the President signed the Republican energy bill, Mr. MEEK, Mr. RYAN? It was around \$2 a gallon. Let me answer my own question.

Now, do you know what? It is just about a year later, and the fact is a year after this Republican majority passed their bill, their energy act, gas is now \$3 a gallon. \$3 a gallon. They run this institution. They pass the laws here. This is their bill. This is their \$3 a gallon problem. It is all of our problem, but the consequences of what they